



Visiting the United States

U.S. Customs and Border Protection Regulations
for Nonresidents



U.S. Customs and
Border Protection

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Your Declaration

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) declarations, Form 6059B, are distributed on vessels and airplanes and are available in the following languages: English, French, Spanish, German, Italian, Dutch, Portuguese, Polish, Japanese, Chinese, and Korean. Fill out your declaration before you arrive to expedite your CBP clearance. You must complete the information requested on the front of the declaration. You are not required to itemize foreign merchandise for personal use—for example, clothing, toiletries, portable radios—if they are within the exemptions allowed for arriving non-residents. You must, however, declare the value of any foreign gifts, business articles, or items not for your own use that you have brought with you to the United States.

You may declare these articles orally at the time of your inspection. The CBP officer may, however, ask you to list them on the back of your declaration form. Persons arriving by land transportation will make an oral declaration of all foreign articles within the allowable exemptions.

Written Declaration

When making your written declaration, you must list all foreign goods accompanying you other than your personal effects, along with their price or value. This includes gifts for other people, articles carried for someone else, articles for sale, and commercial samples. You are not required to list wearing apparel, articles of personal adornment, toiletries, and similar personal effects that you owned abroad and have brought for your own use.

The purchase price of foreign articles you declare must be stated in U.S. dollars. If you don't know the price, say so. If the article was a gift, state the fair value, in U.S. dollars, in the country where it was acquired. Misinformation can result in delays and even penalties.

Family Declaration

The head of a family may make a joint declaration for all members residing in the same household and traveling together to the United States.

Your Exemptions

For CBP clearance purposes, a traveler is considered either a returning resident of the United States or a nonresident. In addition to visitors, nonresident status also applies to:

- Persons emigrating to the United States;
- Children born abroad who have never resided in the United States, and
- Persons who left the United States after establishing residency with no intention of reestablishing U.S. residency.

U.S. residents stationed or working abroad may also claim nonresident status when returning to the United States for a short visit provided all articles, except gifts and items consumed during their visit, are exported upon the leaving the United States.

Articles brought into the United States are subject to duty and internal revenue tax unless they are prohibited entry, but visitors or nonresidents, are allowed certain exemptions and privileges. These include:

Personal Effects

Wearing apparel, jewelry, toiletries, hunting and fishing equipment, cameras, portable radios, and similar personal effects are exempt from duty if they are for personal use, they belong to you, and they accompany you into and out of the United States.

Alcoholic Beverages

Nonresidents who are at least 21 years old may bring in, free of duty and internal revenue tax, up to one liter of alcoholic beverage—beer, wine, liquor—for personal

use. Quantities above the one-liter limitation are subject to duty and internal revenue tax.

In addition to federal laws, you must also meet state alcoholic beverage laws, which may be more restrictive than federal laws. This means that if the state in which you arrive permits less liquor, wine, or beer than you have legally brought into the United States, that state's laws apply to your importation of alcoholic beverages for personal use.

United States postal laws prohibit shipping of alcoholic beverages by mail.

Tobacco Products

You may include in your personal exemption not more than 200 cigarettes (one carton) or 50 cigars or two kilograms (4.4 lbs.) of smoking tobacco, or proportional amounts of each. An additional 100 cigars may be brought in under your gift exemption.

Cigars of Cuban origin are generally prohibited entry, even for personal use without an OFAC specific license. If you have any questions on this subject please check with the CBP attaché at the American Embassy.

Vehicles

You may temporarily import an automobile, trailer, airplane, motorcycle, boat, or similar vehicle for the transportation of yourself, your family, and your guests. The vehicle must be free of soil and plant material.

Motor vehicles and motor vehicle equipment for personal use may be imported for up to one year. The vehicle must be imported in connection with your arrival, and it must be owned by you or on order before you depart from abroad.

A vehicle cannot be sold in the United States unless it complies with U.S. laws governing motor vehicles. The laws governing motor vehicle safety apply to all vehicles other than motorcycles if their date of entry into the United States is less than 25 years after the date

of manufacture. Motor vehicle safety laws also apply to motorcycles manufactured after January 1, 1969.

Federal law also requires that motor vehicles beginning with the 1969 model year, and motorcycles manufactured after December 31, 1977, meet all air-pollution control standards. Finally, federal cost savings standards relating to imported vehicles must also be complied with. Nonresident visitors to the United States are exempt from the foregoing standards provided that the vehicle is imported for a period not to exceed one year and the vehicle is for personal use.

If you plan to emigrate to the United States and import your car permanently, or if you intend to sell your vehicle, please request a copy of the CBP pamphlet, *Importing or Exporting a Car*.

Household Effects

You may import furniture, dishes, linens, libraries, artwork, and similar household furnishings free of duty. To be eligible for the duty-free exemption, the articles must have either been available for your use, or used in a household where you were a resident member, for one year. The year of use need not be continuous, nor does it need to be the year immediately proceeding the date of importation. Household effects from the country where these effects were used and meeting the above criteria may be entered into the United States within 10 years after your last arrival in the United States.

Household effects may not be entered under your duty-free exemption if they are for another person or for sale. All food items in your household effects must be declared.

Professional Equipment

A person immigrating to the United States may enter professional equipment free of duty if it was owned and used abroad; this includes professional books and tools of trade, occupation, or employment. Theatrical scenery, properties, or apparel and articles for use in any manufacturing establishment are not eligible for this exemption.

DOCUMENTARY REQUIREMENTS FOR ENTRY TO THE UNITED STATES

Travel from Mexico or Canada within the Western Hemisphere (North, Central or South America, Caribbean and Bermuda)

U.S. citizens must provide:

- Are currently exempt from passport requirements. However, it is highly recommended that a U.S. Citizen be prepared to present documentation such as valid or expired U.S. passport, U.S. birth certificate, or Naturalization certificate to avoid delays.

Important Note: The Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative will require all travelers to and from the Americas, the Caribbean, and Bermuda to have a passport or other accepted form of documentation to enter or reenter the United States. The program will be rolled out in phases. The proposed timeline is as follows:

- December 31, 2005: Requirement applied to all travel (air/sea) to or from the Caribbean, Bermuda, Central America and South America.
- December 31, 2006: Requirement applied to all air and sea travel to or from Mexico and Canada.
- December 31, 2007: Requirement extended to all air, sea and land border crossings.

For more information, please visit the State Department's travel website at www.travel.state.gov or the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's website at www.dhs.gov. To apply for a passport, U.S. citizens can visit www.travel.state.gov or call the U.S. Passport Office at 1-877-4USA-PPT or TDD/TYY: 1-888-874-7793. Foreign nationals should contact their respective governments to obtain passports.

U.S. Lawful Permanent Residents (LPRs) must provide one of the following:

- I-551, Permanent Resident Card (Green card),

- Machine-Readable Immigrant Visa endorsed with a CBP Admission Stamp,
- Temporary Residence Stamp (ADIT stamp) contained in a passport or on Form I-94, or
- Valid Reentry Permit, or
- Unexpired Immigrant Visa. (Passport required unless otherwise noted).

Visitors/Non-immigrants must provide one of the following:

- Generally, a valid unexpired passport and visa., or However, certain classes may require specific supporting documentation such as an employment petition, student authorization, or approval notice.
- Nationals of countries authorized to participate in the *Visa Waiver program are required to present an unexpired machine-readable passport. For additional information refer to the State Department at http://www.travel.state.gov/visa/temp/without/without_1990.html. Valid, unexpired passport only, if Visa Waiver Program or Guam Visa Waiver Program eligible
- Nationals of countries authorized to participate in the Guam Visa Waiver Program are required to present an unexpired passport.
- Mexicans may provide a valid DSP-150 (BCC) in lieu of a valid passport and visa

Generally, Canadians Nationals must show ID but are exempt from passport and visa requirements. However presentation of a Canadian passport, birth certificate, Naturalization certificate or other supporting documentation will facilitate the inspection and is strongly encouraged.

Travel from the Eastern Hemisphere (Europe, Africa, Asia, Australia)

U.S. citizens must provide one of the following:

- Valid, unexpired U.S. passport

U.S. Lawful Permanent Residents (LPRs) must provide one of the following:

- Valid unexpired passport or U.S. travel document and I-551 (Green card),
- Temporary Residence Stamp (ADIT stamp) contained in a passport or on Form I-94, or
- Immigrant Visa (passport required unless otherwise noted).

Visitors/Non-immigrants must provide one of the following:

- Valid passport and visa, or
- Valid passport only, if Visa Waiver Program or Guam Visa Waiver Program eligible
- Mexicans must provide a valid passport with either a visa or a valid DSP-150 (BCC)
- Canadians must provide a valid passport

There are some slight exceptions that may exist regarding the above listed information. For further instructions on documentation requirements, contact your consulate or embassy.

Gift Exemptions

As a nonresident, you are allowed up to \$100 worth of merchandise, free of duty and internal revenue tax, as gifts for other people. To claim this exemption, you must remain in the United States for at least 72 hours, and the gifts must accompany you.

This \$100 gift exemption, or any part of it, can be claimed only once every six months. You may include 100 cigars within the gift exemption, but alcoholic beverages may not be included. The cigars may not be of Cuban origin.

Family members may not group their gift exemptions. For example, a husband and wife are bringing a \$200 gift to a friend in the United States. Only one family member will be allowed to claim the \$100 gift exemption, the remaining \$100 would be dutiable at the flat rate of duty. However, the husband and wife could each bring in a \$100 gift, and each would be granted the gift exemption as long as all other CBP requirements are met.

If you've used your gift exemption and then return to the United States before the six-month period has ended, you may still bring in up to \$200 worth of merchandise free of duty for your personal or household use. Any of the following may be included in this \$200 exemption: 50 cigarettes, 100 cigars (non-Cuban), 150 milliliters of alcoholic beverages, 150 milliliters of perfume containing alcohol, or equivalent amounts of each. If you exceed any of these limitations, however, or if the total value of all dutiable articles exceeds \$200, no exemption can be applied.

Do not gift-wrap your articles because they must be available for CBP inspection.

Wedding Gifts

No specific duty exemption for wedding gifts is granted to nonresidents.

Gifts Sent by Mail

Persons in the United States may receive free of duty a gift mailed from a foreign country, or from a Caribbean Basin beneficiary country, if the shipment does not exceed \$100 in fair U.S. retail value. If the gift is sent from the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, or Guam, the duty-free exemption rises to \$200. You may send as many gifts as you wish, but the U.S. recipient will have to pay duty if the gift parcels received in one

day total more than \$100 (or \$200) in fair U.S. retail value. Gifts that exceed these amounts will be subject to duty based upon their entire value.

Packages should be marked “Unsolicited Gift,” with the donor’s name, nature of the gift, and the package’s fair U.S. retail value clearly written on the outside wrapper. When you arrive in the United States, you are not required to declare any gifts sent from abroad.

All plant material and food items must be declared.

Alcoholic beverages, tobacco products and perfumes containing alcohol may not be included under the provision for gifts mailed from abroad.

Duty-Free Shops

Articles purchased in duty-free shops, or on a plane or ship, are subject to duty and other applicable restrictions and must be declared. Articles bought in American duty-free shops are also subject to duty and internal revenue tax if reentered into the United States.

Other Exemptions/Duty Calculation

In Transit through the United States

A nonresident transiting through the United States may have in his or her possession dutiable articles not exceeding \$200 in value. These articles may include up to four liters of dutiable alcoholic beverages if the nonresident is taking these articles to a place outside the CBP territory of the United States. The CBP territory of the United States included the 50 U.S. states, Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia.

Articles Free of Duty Under Trade Agreements

The United States has trade agreements with some nations that affect the duty status of certain goods from those nations, sometimes allowing the goods to be entered duty-free. One such agreement of special interest to travelers is the Generalized System of Preferences

(GSP), under which certain items from developing countries are eligible for duty-free treatment. An advisory list of the most popular tourist items according to this special duty-free status is contained in the pamphlet, **GSP and the Traveler**, which can be found on the CBP Web site at www.cbp.gov.

The GSP program first went into effect in 1976, although its provisions have expired several times since then. It has been extended through December 31, 2006. Beyond that date, you should contact a CBP port of entry or the CBP Attaché at American embassies abroad to verify the status of these provisions.

Articles Subject to Duty

Imported articles that cannot be claimed under the exemptions discussed above are subject to duty and tax. After deducting your exemptions and the value of any duty-free articles, a flat rate of duty of 1.5 percent will be applied to the next \$1,000 (fair retail value in the country of acquisition) worth of merchandise. Any dollar amounts or articles above \$1,000 will be dutiable at whatever duty rate(s) apply to the merchandise.

Articles to which the flat rate of duty is applied must accompany you and must be for your personal use or for use as gifts. You can receive this flat-rate provision only once every 30 days, excluding the day of your last arrival.

U.S. Insular Possessions

For articles acquired in the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, or Guam, the flat rate of duty is 1.5 percent whether the articles accompany you or are shipped directly from these islands to the United States. There are special procedures that must be followed for goods shipped from these islands to qualify under this provision. These procedures are described in the CBP pamphlet, **International Mail Imports**.

Members of a family residing in the same household and traveling together may group articles together for

application of the \$1,000 flat rate, regardless of which family member actually owns the articles.

Under the North American Free Trade Agreement, the flat rate of duty decreases annually for qualifying merchandise from Canada and Mexico.

Shipping Household Goods to the United States

Personal and household effects entitled to duty-free entry need not accompany you to the United States; you may have them shipped to your U.S. address at a later time if you choose.

A shipment of personal and/or household effects arriving in the United States must be cleared through CBP at its first port of arrival. If this is inconvenient, you may make arrangements with a foreign freight-forwarder to have the effects sent in CBP's custody (called an in-bond shipment) from the port of arrival to a more convenient port of entry for clearance. (Ask your moving company if they offer this service.)

You must complete CBP Form 3299, Declaration for Free Entry of Unaccompanied Articles, to give to the CBP officer when the shipment is cleared.

It is not necessary to employ a customs broker to clear your shipment. You may do it yourself after you arrive in the United States, or you may designate a relative or friend to represent you in Customs matters. If you choose a broker, friend, or relative, you must give that person a letter addressed to "Officer in Charge of CBP" authorizing that individual to represent you as your agent on a one-time basis to clear your shipment.

All shipments must be cleared within five working days after they arrive in the United States. If a shipment is not cleared within that time, it will be sent, at the owner's risk and expense, to a warehouse for storage until clearance can be made. Should you attempt to bring in merchandise that is prohibited by law, it will be seized and you may be liable for a personal penalty. Restricted merchandise must be inspected either by or for the agency that imposes the restrictions—

the Department of Transportation, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Food and Drug Administration, Department of Fish and Wildlife, and others. Only then will the shipment be released; it may be detained, however, until conditions attached to the restrictions are met; such as, making automotive modifications required under U.S. safety standards or obtaining certain inoculations for pets. Travelers are provided a receipt for detained articles until good clearance is established. Articles may be auctioned off if not claimed within six months.

Prohibited and Protected Articles

Because CBP officers are stationed at ports of entry at airports, seaports, and along our land and sea borders, they are often called upon to enforce laws and requirements of other U.S. government agencies. This is done to protect public health and safety and to preserve domestic plant and animal life.

Prohibited articles include, but are not limited to, lottery tickets; narcotics and dangerous drugs; many fresh fruits; vegetables and meats; live insects; propagative plants; obscene articles and publications; seditious and treasonable materials; hazardous articles (e.g., fireworks, dangerous toys, toxic or poisonous substances); products made by prison convicts or forced labor; and switchblade knives. The only exception for the entry of “switchblade knives” is for a one-armed traveler where the blade must be no longer than three inches.

Biological Materials

Unsterilized specimens of human and animal tissue—including blood, bodily discharges and excretion, cultures of living bacteria, viruses or similar organisms; animals suspected of being infected with a disease transmissible to humans; and insects, snails, and bats may require an import permit from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. To obtain a permit or

further information write to the Office of Health and Safety, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (F-05), 1600 Clifton Road NE, Atlanta, GA 30333, USA.

Biological materials produced from animals or animal products may require an additional permit from the Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Please write to the USDA Import-Export Products Staff, APHIS, 4700 River Road, Unit 40, Riverdale, MD 20737-1231 or check the web site http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/import_export.htm, for further information and an application for an import permit.

Books, Video Tapes, Computer Programs & Cassettes

Pirated copies of copyrighted articles, such as unlawfully made reproductions or articles produced without the copyright owner's authorization, are prohibited from importation into the United States. Pirated copies will be seized and destroyed.

Artifacts/Cultural Property

An export certificate is required by most Latin American countries to export pre-Columbian artifacts, monumental and architectural sculpture, or murals, whether shipped directly or indirectly from the country of origin into the United States.

Firearms & Ammunition

If your travel to the United States is primarily for the purpose of hunting or lawful sporting activities, firearms and ammunition may be entered under the stipulation that such firearms and any remaining unfired ammunition are taken out of the United States upon departure.

If hunting or a sporting event is a secondary reason for coming to the United States because the travelers will establish residence whether temporarily or permanently, the firearms and ammunition are subject

to restrictions and import permits. Fully automatic weapons and semi-automatic assault-type weapons are prohibited.

For complete information and to obtain the necessary permits to import firearms, contact the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; U.S. Department of Justice; Firearms and Explosives Import Branch; Washington, D.C. 20226, USA.

Food Products

Bakery items and all cured hard cheeses are admissible. The USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) publishes a pamphlet called *Travelers Tips*, which offers detailed information on bringing food, plant, and animal products into this country. Imported foods are also subject to requirements of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Prior Notice for Food Importations

The Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002 (Bioterrorism Act - BTA), Public Law 107-188, established the requirement that food items, imported (or offered for import) for commercial use, including hand-carried quantities, be properly reported to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) prior to arrival of those items in the United States. The FDA prior notification timeframes (by transport mode) are 2 hours by land, 4 hours by rail or air, 8 hours by vessel and prior to the “time of mailing” for international mail.

Food for an individual’s personal use (for consumption by that individual, his/her family or friends, and not for sale or other distribution) or food that was made by an individual in his/her personal residence and sent by that individual as a personal gift (for non-business reasons) to an individual in the United States is not subject to BTA requirements.

In general, failure to provide complete, timely and accurate prior notice, for BTA regulated items, can result in refusal of admission of the merchandise, movement

of the goods to an FDA registered facility (at importer expense) and/or civil monetary penalty liabilities for any party that was involved in the import transaction.

For full details regarding the latest FDA BTA requirements, including those food items which are exempt from these requirements, please consult the FDA web site address: <http://www.fda.gov/oc/bioterrorism/bioact.html>.

Note: Food and beverage goods sent by an individual to an individual no longer require the filing of prior notice. If the shipper is a business prior notice is required.

Fruits, Vegetables, Plants

Many fruits, vegetables, plants, cuttings, seeds, unprocessed plant products, and certain endangered plant species are either prohibited from entering the country or require an import permit. Endangered or threatened species of plants and plant products, if not prohibited from importation, will require an export permit from the country of origin. Every single plant, plant product, fruit, or vegetable must be declared to the CBP officer/CBP Agriculture specialist and must be presented for inspection no matter how free of pests it appears to be. Most commercially canned or processed items are admissible.

Applications for import permits or requests for information should be addressed to: Permit Unit, USDA-APHIS-PPQ, 4700 River Rd., Unit 136, Riverdale, MD 20737-1236, USA.

Meats, Livestock, Poultry

Meats, livestock, poultry and their by-products (e.g., sausage, pâté) are either prohibited or restricted entry into the United States, depending upon the animal disease condition in the country of origin. Fresh meat is generally prohibited from most countries. Canned meat is permitted if the inspector can determine that it is commercially canned, cooked in the container, hermetically sealed, and can be kept without refrigeration.

eration. Other canned, cured, or dried meat is severely restricted.

Contact the USDA Import-Export Products staff, APHIS-VS, 4700 River Rd., Unit 40, Riverdale, MD 20737-1231, USA, for detailed requirements.

Hunting Trophies

If planning to import game or a hunting trophy, check with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service first, at www.fsw.gov. Such items generally require a license and only certain ports are designated to handle them. Hunting trophies and hides must be shipped to a USDA-approved taxidermy service for processing. Trophies may also be subject to an APHIS inspection for sanitary purposes. General guidelines for importing game and trophies may be found in APHIS publication **Travelers Tips**.

Many regulations govern the importation of animals and animal parts. Failure to comply with these regulations can result in extensive or expensive delays in clearing your trophy through CBP. In addition, federal regulations do not authorize the importation of any wildlife or fish into any state of the United States if that state's laws or regulations are more restrictive than any applicable federal treatment. Wild animals taken, killed, sold, possessed, or exported to the United States in violation of any foreign laws are also not allowed entry into the United States.

Medicine/Narcotics

Narcotics and dangerous drugs are prohibited entry. There are severe civil and/or criminal penalties if imported.

A traveler requiring medicines that contain habit-forming drugs or narcotics (e.g., cough medicine, diuretics, heart drugs, tranquilizers, sleeping pills, antidepressants, stimulants, etc.) should:

- Have all drugs, medicines, and similar products properly identified.

- Carry only such quantity as would normally be used by an individual having a health problem requiring the drugs or medicines.
- Obtain either a prescription or written statement from your personal physician that the medicine is for use under a doctor's direction and that it is necessary for your physical well being while traveling.
- Declare such drugs or medications to the CBP officer.

Merchandise from Embargoed Countries

The importation of merchandise or goods that contain components from the following countries is generally prohibited under regulations administered by the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC): Cuba, Iran, Iraq, North Korea, and Sudan. This list is subject to change depending upon the international political climate and foreign policy concerns.

These restrictions do not apply to information and informational materials; such as, books, magazines, films, posters, photographs, microfilms, tapes, CDs, records, works of art, etc. Blank tapes and blank CDs are not informational material.

Foreign visitors to the United States are advised to contact OFAC regarding the importation of goods for their personal use that are not imported for resale and are not in commercial quantities; bringing in goods that originate in any of the countries listed above may require authorization from OFAC. This authorization must be obtained before the traveler arrives in the United States. For more information, visitors to the United States may write to OFAC at: Office of Foreign Assets Control; U.S. Department of the Treasury; 1500 Pennsylvania Avenue NW; Washington, DC 20220, USA, or contact the American Embassy in their home country.

Money

There is no limit on the total amount of monetary instruments that may be brought into or taken out of

the United States, nor is it illegal to do so. However, if you transport or cause to be transported (including by mail or other means) more than \$10,000 in negotiable monetary instruments on any occasion into or out of the United States or if you receive more than \$10,000, you must file a Report of International Transportation of International Currency or Monetary Instruments (FinCen 105) with U.S. Customs and Border Protection denoted in the Currency and Foreign Transactions Reporting Act, 31 U.S.C. 1101, et. seq. Failure to comply can result in civil and criminal penalties, including seizure of the currency or monetary instruments. Monetary instruments include U.S. or foreign coin, currency, travelers' checks, money orders, and negotiable instruments or investment securities in bearer form.

Pets

There are controls, restrictions, and prohibitions on the U.S. entry of animals, birds, turtles, wildlife, and endangered species.

- Cats must be free of evidence of diseases communicable to man when examined at the U.S. port of entry. If the animal is not in apparent good health, further examination by a licensed veterinarian may be required at the owner's expense. Cats must be free of ticks and fleas and a valid rabies vaccination certificate must accompany the animal. The certificate should identify the animal, the dates of vaccination and expiration, and bear the signature of a licensed veterinarian.
- Dogs must be free of evidence of diseases communicable to man and must be vaccinated against rabies at least 30 days prior to arrival. The requirement does not apply to puppies less than 3 months of age; puppies up to 3 months must be confined at the owner's expense, then immunized and confined for an additional 30 days.)
- A valid rabies vaccination certificate must accompany the animal. The certificate should identify the animal, the dates of vaccination and expiration, and bear the signature of a licensed veterinarian. If no expiration

date is specified, the certificate is acceptable if the date of vaccination is no more than 12 months prior to arrival in the United States. Vaccination against rabies is not required for dogs arriving from rabies-free countries.

- Personally owned pet birds may be entered, but only two may be entered from the psittacine (parrot) family. APHIS and Public Health Service requirements must be met, which may include quarantine at the owner's expense at an APHIS facility at specified locations. Advance reservations are required for quarantines.
- Primates such as monkeys, apes and similar animals may not be imported.

If you plan to take your pet abroad or import one on your return, obtain a copy of our publication ***Pets and Wildlife***.

You should check with state and local authorities about any restrictions and prohibitions they may have before importing a pet. Hawaii, in particular has strict quarantine requirements for pets.

Trademarked Articles

Trademark owners often register their trademarks with the CBP, even when the trademarked merchandise is foreign-made, in order to control the importation of counterfeits. CBP imposes restrictions on the importation of articles whose trademarks have been registered, and these restrictions apply to purchases that accompany nonresident visitors. Counterfeit articles with valid U.S. patents are also subject to restrictions, even though they may not be registered with CBP.

Visitors are allowed an exemption, usually one article of each type bearing a protected trademark. One-of-each-type means one pair of shoes, one scarf, one coat, one handbag, one camera, one watch, or one bottle of perfume, for example, regardless of whose trademark the articles bear and regardless of whether the products are genuine, gray market, or counterfeit.

Gray-market merchandise is genuine, legitimately manufactured, noncounterfeit merchandise whose importation is restricted to a certain number or quantity. Items that are new, intended as gifts, or imported in such quantity as to be construed a commercial importation may likely be gray-market items, so travelers are advised to restrict themselves to one of each type. Items that are clearly personal effects—one's clothing, for example—have no such restrictions.

As a visitor, you may claim this exemption for the same type of article once every 30 days. If the exempted article is sold within the year following importation, it is subject to forfeiture and you may be assessed a financial penalty based upon its value.

Fish & Wildlife

Fish and Wildlife are subject to import and export restrictions, prohibitions, permits, certificates, and quarantine requirements that cover:

- Wild birds, mammals, marine mammals, reptiles, crustaceans, fish, and mollusks;
- Any part or product thereof, such as skins, feathers, eggs; and
- Products and articles manufactured from wildlife and fish.

Endangered species of wildlife and products made from them are prohibited from importation and exportation. All ivory and ivory products made from elephant or marine ivory are generally prohibited. Antiques containing wildlife parts may be imported provided they can be documented as being at least 100-years old.

Federal regulations do not authorize the importation of any wildlife or fish into any state of the United States if the state's laws or regulations are more restrictive than any applicable federal treatment. Wild mammals or birds taken, killed, sold, possessed, or exported to the

United States in violation of any foreign laws are also not allowed entry into the United States.

If you contemplate importing articles made from wildlife such as tortoise-shell jewelry, leather goods, articles made from whalebone, ivory, skins, or furs, please contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Law Enforcement, P.O. Box 3247, Arlington, VA 22203-3247, USA, http://www.fws.gov/r9dle/div_le.html, before you leave for the U.S. Ask for their pamphlet **Fish and Wildlife**. Publications from the Unit are available to all Service employees as well as to the general public. For publications call 304.876.7203 or fax a request to 304.876.7689.

Visas

Foreign citizens who wish to stay in the United States temporarily—whether for tourism, business, study, or medical reasons—must generally have a visa issued by the U.S. Department of State. To obtain a visa, or more information on this topic, contact the American Embassy or American Consulate in your country of residence.

Questions About Taxes

Foreign visitors to the United States frequently confuse the state sales tax with the value-added tax (VAT). The state sales tax is a small tax on purchases or services, calculated at the time of purchase, which individual states assess and which the U.S. federal government neither determines nor receives. The VAT, on the other hand, is a national tax commonly applied in foreign countries that is included in the actual sales price rather than at the time of purchase.

The United States does not have a VAT and the federal government cannot refund state sales taxes. State taxes are generally not charged to diplomats or employees of some international organizations who have been issued a tax-exemption card. The card however must be presented at the time of purchase in order to waive the sales taxes.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection
Washington, D.C. 20229

Please visit the U.S. Customs and Border Protection
Web site at www.cbp.gov

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